

## AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently Amended) A composition for delivering an active substance to a nasal membrane, the composition comprising:

about 90 to about 99.999 weight percent of a carrier, said carrier comprising about 0.5 to about 5.0 weight percent glycerin and a thickener, ~~wherein said thickener includes at least one of the following:~~ selected from the group consisting of glycerin, carrageenan, sugar, guar gum, methylcellulose, and carbohydrate thickeners, aloe barbadensis gel, antiseptics, preservatives, permeation enhancers, sequestering agents, buffers, and emulsifiers; and

about 0.001 to about 5.0 weight percent of a decongestant selected from the group consisting of oxymetazoline hydrochloride, naphazoline hydrochloride, ephedrine, phenylephrine hydrochloride, xylometaxoline hydrochloride, wherein the composition has a viscosity greater than about 2,500 centipoise.

2. (Currently Amended) The composition of claim 1, ~~wherein~~ wherein the decongestant composition further comprises at least one of the following: ~~oxymetazoline hydrochloride, naphazoline hydrochloride, ephedrine, phenylephrine hydrochloride, xylometaxoline hydrochloride,~~ camphor, eucalyptus oil, menthol, and azulen.

3. (Currently Amended) The composition of claim 1, further comprising a permeation enhancer.

4. (Currently Amended) The composition of claim 3, ~~where~~ wherein the permeation enhancer comprises at least one of the following: liposomes, sequestering agents, ascorbic acid, glycerol, chitosan, lysophosphatidylcholin, EDTA, and disodium EDTA.

5. (Currently Amended) The composition of claim 1, further comprising a preservative.

6. (Original) The composition of claim 5, wherein the preservative comprises at least one of the following: benzalkonium chloride and benzyl alcohol.

7. (Currently Amended) The composition of claim 1, further comprising an emulsifier.

8. (Original) The composition of claim 7, wherein the emulsifier comprises at least one of the following: glycerolpolyethylene glycol ricinoleate, fatty acid esters of polyethyleneglycol, ethoxylated glycerol, polyethylene glycol, and hydroxylated lecithin.

9. (Currently Amended) The composition of claim 1, further comprising a buffer.

10. (Original) The composition of claim 9, wherein the buffer comprises at least one of the following: monosodium phosphate and disodium phosphate.

11. (Currently Amended) A composition for ~~delivering an active substance to a nasal membrane~~ reducing a duration of symptoms associated with a cold, the composition comprising:

about 75 to about 99.999 weight percent of a carrier comprising a thickener, ~~wherein said thickener includes at least one of the following:~~ selected from the group consisting of glycerin, carrageenan, sugar, guar gum, methylcellulose, hydroxyethylcellulose, carbohydrate thickeners, ~~aloe barbadensis gel, antiseptics, preservatives, permeation enhancers, sequestering agents, buffers, and emulsifiers;~~ and

about 0.000001 to about 10 weight percent an active substance selected from the group consisting of oxymetazoline hydrochloride, naphazoline hydrochloride, ephedrine, phenylephrine hydrochloride, and xylometaxoline hydrochloride,

wherein the composition has a viscosity from about 3,000 centipoise to about 10,000 centipoise.

12. (Cancelled)

13. (Currently Amended) The composition of claim ~~12~~ 11, ~~where in~~ wherein the ~~decongestant composition~~ further comprises at least one of the following: ~~oxymetazoline hydrochloride; naphazoline hydrochloride, ephedrine, phenylephrine hydrochloride, xylometaxoline hydrochloride,~~ camphor, eucalyptus oil, menthol, and azulen.

14. (Original) The composition of claim 11, wherein the carrier includes glycerin.

15. (Original) The composition of claim 14, wherein the carrier includes about 0.5 to about 5.0 weight percent glycerin.

16. (Currently Amended) The composition of claim 11, further comprising a permeation enhancer.

17. (Currently Amended) The composition of claim 16, ~~where~~ wherein the permeation enhancer comprises at least one of the following: liposomes, sequestering agents, ascorbic acid, glycerol, chitosan, lysophosphatidylcholin, EDTA, and disodium EDTA.

18. (Currently Amended) The composition of claim 11, further comprising a preservative.

19. (Original) The composition of claim 18, wherein the preservative comprises at least one of the following: benzalkonium chloride and benzyl alcohol.

20. (Original) The composition of claim 11, further comprising an emulsifier.

21. (Original) The composition of claim 20, wherein the emulsifier comprises at least one of the following: glycerolpolyethylene glycol ricinoleate, fatty acid esters of polyethyleneglycol, ethoxylated glycerol, polyethylene glycol, and hydroxylated lecithin.

22. (Currently Amended) The composition of claim 11, further comprising a buffer.

23. (Original) The composition of claim 22, wherein the buffer comprises at least one of the following: monosodium phosphate and disodium phosphate.

24. (Currently Amended) A composition for delivering an active substance to a nasal membrane, the composition comprising:

about 90 to about 99.9 ~~99.999~~ weight percent of a carrier and the carrier comprises about 0.5 to about 5.0 weight percent glycerin;

about 0.001 to about 1.0 weight percent of a decongestant comprising oxymetazoline hydrochloride;

about 0.0001 to about 0.1 weight percent of a thickener;

about 0.001 to about 1.0 weight percent of a permeation enhancer;

about 0.001 to about 1.0 weight percent of a preservative; and

about 0.0001 to about 1.0 weight percent of an emulsifier,

wherein the composition has a viscosity from about ~~4,000~~ 2,500 centipoise to about ~~6,000~~ 40,000 centipoise.

25. (Original) The composition of claim 24, wherein the decongestant comprises about 0.045 to about 0.055 weight percent oxymetazoline hydrochloride.

26. (Currently Amended) The composition of claim 25, wherein the decongestant further comprises at least one of an effective amount of eucalyptus and metholmenthol.

27. (Original) A method of delivering an active substance to the nasal membrane, the method comprising the steps of:

providing a the composition of claim 1; and  
applying the composition to the nasal cavity.

28. (Original) A method of delivering an active substance to the nasal membrane, the method comprising the steps of:

providing the composition of claim 11; and  
applying the composition to the nasal cavity.

29. (Currently Amended) A system for delivering an active substance to the nasal membrane, the system comprising:

a composition having about 90 to about 99.999 weight percent of a carrier and the carrier comprises about 0.5 to about 5.0 weight percent glycerin, and about 0.001 to about 5.0 weight percent of a decongestant selected from the group consisting of oxymetazoline hydrochloride, naphazoline hydrochloride, ephedrine, phenylephrine hydrochloride, and xylometaxoline hydrochloride, wherein the composition has a viscosity greater than about 2,500 centipoise and less than about 40,000; and

a nasal applicator,

wherein the composition is contained within the nasal applicator for dispensing an effective dosage into the nasal cavity of a patient.

30. (Currently Amended) A composition for application to a nasal membrane to reduce symptoms associated with allergies and the common cold, the composition comprising:

about 90 to about 99.9 99.999 weight percent of a carrier;

about 0.001 to about 5.0 weight percent of an active ingredient comprising oxymetazoline hydrochloride; and

about 0.00001 to about 5.0 weight percent of a permeation enhancer comprising liposomes;

wherein the composition has a viscosity ~~configured to maintain said active ingredient in direct contact with a nasal membrane for an effective period of time.~~  
between about 2,500 and about 40,000 centipoise.

31. (Currently Amended) A composition for application to a nasal membrane to reduce symptoms associated with allergies and the common cold, the composition comprising:

about 90 to about 99.99 99.999 weight percent of a carrier;

about 0.001 to about 5.0 weight percent of an active ingredient comprising oxymetazoline hydrochloride;

about 0.00001 to about 5.0 weight percent of a permeation enhancer comprising liposomes; and

about 0.000001 to about 1.0 weight percent of an aromatic substance comprising at least one of menthol or eucalyptus extract;

wherein the composition has a viscosity ~~configured to maintain said active ingredient in direct contact with a nasal membrane for an effective period of time.~~  
between about 2,500 and about 40,000 centipoise.

32. (New) The composition of claim 1, further comprising a moisturizing agent.

33. (New) The composition of claim 1, further comprising at least one of the following: aloe barbadensis gel, antiseptics, preservatives, permeation enhancers, sequestering agents, buffers, and emulsifiers.

34. (New) The composition of claim 11, further comprising a moisturizing agent.

35. (New) The composition of claim 11, further comprising at least one of the following: aloe barbadensis gel, antiseptics, preservatives, permeation enhancers, sequestering agents, buffers, and emulsifiers.

36. (New) A system for delivering an active substance to the nasal membrane, the system comprising:

a composition having about 75 to about 99.999 weight percent of a carrier and about 0.000001 to about 10 weight percent an active substance selected from the group consisting of oxymetazoline hydrochloride, naphazoline hydrochloride, ephedrine, phenylephrine hydrochloride, and xylometaxoline hydrochloride, wherein the composition has a viscosity greater than about 2,500 centipoise and less than about 40,000 centipoise; and

a nasal applicator,

wherein the composition includes a thickener selected from the group consisting of glycerin, carrageenan, sugar, guar gum, methylcellulose, hydroxyethylcellulose, carbohydrate thickeners, and is contained within the applicator for dispensing an effective dosage into the nasal cavity of a patient.

37. (New) system of claim 36, wherein the applicator is configured to deliver a metered dosage to a nasal membrane.

38. (New) The system of claim 37, wherein the applicator is a nasal spray device.

39. (New) The system of claim 38, wherein the metered dosage delivered to the nasal membrane is about 0.125 ml.

40. (New) A composition for application to a nasal membrane to reduce symptoms associated with allergies and the common cold, the composition consisting essentially of:

about 0.045 wt % to about 0.055 wt % oxymetazoline;

about 0.00001 wt % to about 5.0 wt % permeation enhancer;

about 0 wt % to about 1.0 wt % aromatic substance;

about 0.0001 wt % to about 1.0 wt % preservative;

about 0.000001 to about 5.0 wt % thickener;

about 90 wt % to about 99 wt % water;

about 0.00001 wt % to about 1.0 wt % emulsion agent; and

about 0.0002 wt % to about 6.0 wt % buffer.